

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 636

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives encouraging the active engagement of the United States in world affairs and urging the Secretary of State to coordinate with implementing partners to create an online database of international exchange programs and related opportunities.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 11, 2004

Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself and Mr. LEACH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives encouraging the active engagement of the United States in world affairs and urging the Secretary of State to coordinate with implementing partners to create an online database of international exchange programs and related opportunities.

Whereas many polls and studies have indicated that the United States needs to do a better job of building personal and institutional relationships with peoples and nations around the world in order to combat anti-American sentiment;

Whereas broad bipartisan consensus in favor of strengthening United States public diplomacy emerged during 2003 in

both Houses of Congress and in various reports, including reports of the Council on Foreign Relations, the General Accounting Office, the Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, the Heritage Foundation, and the Advisory Group on Public Diplomacy for the Arab and Muslim World;

Whereas in November 2003, NAFSA: Association of International Educators warned that the lack of knowledge of the world by people in the United States represents a serious liability in the fight against terrorism;

Whereas international exchange programs, which have assisted in extending the global influence of the United States by educating many of the leaders of other countries, are suffering from a decline in funding and policy priority;

Whereas only 160,920 United States university-level students studied abroad in 2001–2002, representing just over one percent of all United States students;

Whereas two-thirds of United States students studying abroad study in Western Europe (18.7 percent in the United Kingdom alone), although 95 percent of the world population growth in the next 50 years is expected to occur outside Western Europe;

Whereas the number of scholarships for foreign students studying at United States institutions has dropped from 20,000 a year in the 1980s to just 900 in 2003;

Whereas there are 29,400,000 retired workers in the United States as of June 2003, representing a vast pool of older Americans who have the talent, maturity, and time to volunteer their services abroad;

Whereas the average United States college graduate who has studied one of the less commonly taught languages reaches no more than an intermediate level of proficiency in the language, which is insufficient to meet national security requirements; and

Whereas there are hundreds of well-established organizations in the United States that implement educational and professional exchanges, international volunteering, and related programs, and the efforts of those organizations could readily be expanded to reach out to more United States citizens: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved,*

2   **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

3       This resolution may be cited as the “People-to-People  
4   Engagement in World Affairs Resolution”.

5   **SEC. 2. SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

6       It is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

7           (1) the Secretary of State should coordinate  
8       with implementing partners to create an online data-  
9       base to provide information on how United States  
10      citizens can take advantage of—

11           (A) international exchange programs of the  
12      Department of State, the Department of Edu-  
13      cation, and other Federal Government and non-  
14      government entities;

15           (B) volunteer opportunities with organiza-  
16      tions that assist refugees and immigrants in the  
17      United States;

1 (C) opportunities to host international stu-  
2 dents and professionals in the United States;

3 (D) sister-city organizations in the United  
4 States;

5 (E) international fairs and cultural events  
6 in the United States; and

7 (F) foreign language learning opportuni-  
8 ties;

9 (2) United States citizens should become more  
10 engaged in international affairs and more aware of  
11 peoples and developments outside the United States;  
12 and

13 (3) United States citizens should take advan-  
14 tage of one or more opportunities to become more  
15 engaged and more aware, by such means as—

16 (A) participating in a professional or cul-  
17 tural exchange;

18 (B) studying abroad;

19 (C) volunteering abroad;

20 (D) working with an immigrant or refugee  
21 group;

22 (E) hosting a foreign student or profes-  
23 sional;

24 (F) participating in a sister-city program;  
25 and

1 (G) learning a foreign language.

